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TO:

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FROM:

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SUBJECT: Basic Intelligence Course

Date: 14 MAR 1978 By: [redacted]

1. Several pages of notes are attached. They were set down during or immediately after attendance at BIC courses between 14 January and 6 February (the course runs to 25 February). The notes are in fairly raw form to preserve initial reaction to speakers and subjects. They also happen to be blunter than is customary, but I have been more interested in discovering whether the speakers and material constitute the very best we can offer rather than in pulling punches to favor the merely adequate. We are in good supply of that.

2. Certain paragraphs in the notes are asterisked, indicating that speaker or material should be considered for the revised BOC. These cover the following:

3. Guest Speakers from OCI on Area Studies

[redacted] Middle East Division.
[redacted] African Division.

Three of five OCI speakers were heard. The third, Mr. [redacted] of the Far East Desk, is not recommended. I am informed (per some casual student sounding) that the speaker on Western Europe was good. This may mean anything. I suggest that Western Europe is a big mouthful for one man to chew on; it might be split between two speakers. Enthusiasm for [redacted] will be found in the notes of 21 and 22 January, pages 6 and 7.

4. [redacted] DCI Representative

Mr. [redacted] topic is "The Mission of CIA". He certainly should be considered as a curtain raiser in BOC where the subject crops up during the first session. His discourse is lively and informative. Cf. note, 26 January, page 8.

5. [redacted] BIC Staff

Comments under 14, 16 and 27 January, pages 1, 5, and 8. Geography is Dr. [redacted] special weapon. It would seem sensible to have him teach it and to supervise the subject wherever it is part of the TR(S) schedule. There cannot be enough emphasis on geography and in Dr. [redacted] hands it notably comes to life.

25X1 6. [] BIC Staff

Notes of 15 January, page 4, capsule Dr. [] best lectures: "Principles and Methods of Intelligence" and "Other Intelligence Missions". If this sort of material is required in BOC, Dr. [] is the man to handle it. The presentation in BIC is a generalized one but is accomplished impressively.

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7. Lecture: "History of Intelligence"

Recruitment methods often introduce a number of people who have no real conception of this profession. Especially for them, and for the majority, we should carry this subject. Colonel [] presentation will not do, but his notes should provide a fairly firm base on which to build. (26 January, pages 7 and 8)

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8. Sherman KENT, Chief NIE

No unqualified recommendation is made with regard to Mr. KENT. The note of 23 January, page 7, gives the reason. But if prestige value must be admitted, it may be desirable to enlist him.

25X1 9. [] PSB

25X1 The note of 6 February, page 11, will reveal unqualified endorsement of Dr. [] by far the shining jewel among all BIC speakers. If BOC's framework can contain information on PSB, then this man is an absolute necessity. He speaks again, on "Foreign Intelligence Agencies", on 11 February.

25X1 10. Between BIC lectures I have tried to sample BOC offerings. As it is, I have heard but three BOC staff members. Notes on them comprise the final two or three pages of the attachment. You will find that Mr. [] did not make a great impression; that Mr. [] is extremely able; and that Mr. [] has found himself in the historico-political field.

25X1

11. Some miscellaneous observations:

a. Student notebooks. The BIC handout is exceptionally well done, containing brief biographies of staff members, course outline, one-page digests of some lectures, charts showing the structure of CIA and other agencies, and a glossary of intelligence terms. It may or may not be the last word, but struck me as being sensibly assembled.

b. Surplus Data. I question the practicality of stuffing the heads of beginners, and even those who take only BOC, with masses of statistical data which most of them will never find it necessary to utilize. To dissect State, JSC, NSC, ONI, G-2, A-2, the attache system, etc., is all very instructive, but useful only to the few who will be at

a working level vis-a-vis some of these agencies here in Washington. Amid the over-abundance of charts, divisions and multitudinous lower echelons, CIA's position and mission are lost to view. To an extent the fault may lie with the speaker but there remains too much statistical exposition. If these subjects must be pursued, we must insure that CIA's concern and connection are steadily emphasized. Otherwise it is as if, say, RCA Victor, instead of putting them to work, sent its employees to school to learn the internal set-up of Columbia, Decca, and its other competitors without any attention to the tricks and SOP's of daily business.

c. Semi-anonymity. Guests of BIC are always introduced orally. First names are given if the chairman thinks of them; often it is not clear exactly what niche the guest occupies at home base. The SIC method should be considered as SOP: cards of great visibility which carry the speaker's full name, his position, and his subject matter; plus another card which provides the classification of the material covered by the speaker.

d. Types of Intelligence. Some of the types cry out for discussion by speakers who are actually exploiting them, notably scientific intelligence which properly should be covered by someone from OSI. Information on OIR should be given by someone from that agency. It will be seen, via the notes, that air, ground and naval intelligence were separated from the talks on the agencies responsible for those subjects. It would seem practical to have recruits from Army, Air and Navy combine them in one lecture.

e. Reporting. This pops up all over the scene, with approximately 2 1/2 hours devoted to it in BIC, 2 in CAI, and 7 in BOC. I presume this is only too well known, and that ideas are being mulled about pulling all these talks together to form a single course mandatory for all students.

25X1 12. Mr. [] lecture of 6 February, "Intelligence in Action", is not covered in the appended notes. This was a lengthy affair bolstered by two Technicolored TAV items: a map of China and a pictorial chart explaining the subject. Mr. [] fixes his audience with a commanding eye and launches into a highly interesting speech which includes ersatz reports and cables. The latter are utilized to explain not only commo-dissemination mechanics but courses of action open to CIA, State, etc. Even with a demanding speaker and visual aids, I am not sure that all of this is digestible for newcomers. The material, however, is ripe for film treatment and it would do no harm for someone to go over it with an eye to its cinematic possibilities as a training film. As films go, this would be comparatively easy to make and the static portion could be livened up by stock footage of combat, terrain, etc.

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